Runway at Madurai Airport

2672. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in extending and improving the runway at Madurai airport; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of flights touching Madurai as it is the Southern most airport in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already deposited Rs. 3.05 crores with the State Government of Tamilnadu, for acquisition of land required for improvement of the runway at madura airport. However, no action has yet been taken by the State Government in this regard.

(b) Indian Airlines consider their existing operations sufficient to meet the present level of traffic requirements. However, airlines are free to operate flights from any airport in India based on their commercial judgement subject to compliance of the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Scanning machines at airports

2673. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether high quality scanning of baggages at all the airports of the country has become imperative keeping in view security hazards;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the machines provided at all airports are defective and remain out of order most of the time and are of a lower quality;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the scanning machines provided at various airports meet the desired standards;

(f) if not, the reasons therefore and what steps are being taken to rectify the deficiencies and improve the standards; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years 93 high quality X-ray machines have been provided at the airports in India.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, keeping in view the poor performance of some old machines, action is in hand to replace them and upgrade the system.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Closure of Jharsuguda Airstrip

2674. SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to close down the airstrip at Jharsuguda in Orissa; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this will cause inconvenience to the passengers of Western Orissa, as this area has been surround with large private sector units; and

(c) whether it is feasible to renovate, upgrade or modernize the airstrip rather than closing it; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The airstrip at Jharsuguda in Orissa is lying unused for want of traffic demand.

(c) As and when the Airlines indicate their plans to operate flights to and from Jharsuguda airstrip, the airstrip can be made operational by providing requisite facilities.